

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE State: NORTH CAROLINA

PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICE

- (4) Each year maximum rates are adjusted by an annual cost index factor. The cost index has a labor component with a relative weight of 75 percent and a non-labor component with a relative weight of 25 percent. The relative weights are derived from the Medicare Home Health Agency Input Price Index published in the Federal Register dated May 30, 1986. Labor cost changes are measured by the annual percentage change in the average hourly earnings of North Carolina service wages per worker. Non-labor cost changes are measured by the annual percentage change in the GNP Implicit Price deflator.
- (5) The annual cost index equals the sum of the products of multiplying the forecasted labor cost percentage change by 75 percent and multiplying the forecasted non-labor cost percentage change by 25 percent. For services included under Section 2 the July 1, 1996 effective rates are multiplied by the cost index factor for each subsequent year up to the year in which the rates apply. For services included under Section 3 (i) base year costs per visit are multiplied by the cost index factor for each subsequent year up to the year in which rates apply.
- (6) Other adjustments may be necessary for home health services to comply with federal or state laws or rules.
- (c) Medical supplies except those related to provision and use of Durable Medical Equipment are reimbursed at the lower of a provider's billed customary charges or a maximum amount determined for each supply item. Fees will be established based on average, reasonable charges if a Medicare allowable amount cannot be obtained for a particular supply item. Estimates of reasonable cost will be used if a Medicare allowable amount cannot be obtained for a particular supply or equipment item. The Medicare allowable amounts will be those amounts available to the Division of Medicare Assistance as of July 1 of each year.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision, if specified these rates will be adjusted as shown on Supplement 1 to the 4.19-B section of the state plan.

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